

Perspectives in Military History

48th Annual Lecture Series

“American Sniper”

Jim DeFelice
Author

Chief Petty Officer and Navy SEAL Christopher Scott Kyle is known as the most effective sniper in United States history. Over his ten year career in the Navy, including four tours in Iraq, Kyle claimed a record 160 “confirmed kills” as part of SEAL Team 3. Kyle is highly recognized for his bravery in combat, participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003), the Battles of Fallujah (2004) and Ramadi (2006), and finally the Baghdad Campaigns (2008). Retiring in 2009, Kyle came away from the military with two Silver Stars, five Bronze Stars, and the sobriquet “The Devil of Ramadi,” applied by enemy insurgents for his marksmanship. Unfortunately, Kyle’s life post-military had its challenges due to the grueling years of overseas service and time away from his family. In response to his troubles, he founded CRAFT Security Company and shared his combat experiences in a bestselling book. Shortly after the book reached print, a Marine under Kyle’s mentorship killed the former Seal in 2013 at a gun range in Texas. His tragic death left behind his wife, Taya Kyle, and two children. However, Kyle’s legacy lives on in his autobiography, entitled *American Sniper*, written alongside best-selling author and screenwriter Jim DeFelice. DeFelice will center his lecture on Chris Kyle’s background and how it informs the content of the book. *American Sniper* discusses Kyle’s upbringing in Texas, though it focuses on his combat experiences as part of the SEALs. Published in 2012, *American Sniper* quickly made the New York Times nonfiction bestseller list and remained there throughout 2013. In 2015, Warner Brothers and Clint Eastwood made an Academy Award-nominated movie based on Kyle’s exploits and DeFelice’s book.

Jim DeFelice is a prolific fiction and non-fiction author. Many of DeFelice’s books, along with *American Sniper*, are New York Times bestsellers. He specializes in military and political topics, as seen in his co-authored work, *Code Name Johnny Walker* (2014), about an Iraqi translator aiding American forces, and the biography, *Omar Bradley: General at War* (2011). DeFelice most recently finished writing *American Wife* (2015) with Taya Kyle about her experiences as the wife and widow of Navy SEAL Chris Kyle. When DeFelice is not working on book projects he helps develop and write video games, including the successful, *Ace Combat: Assault Horizon*. DeFelice resides in Warwick, New York with his family.

DATE: Wednesday, July 15, 2015

TIME: Doors open at 6:30 PM and the talk begins at 7:15 PM

PLACE: USAHEC, Visitor and Education Center, Multi-Purpose Room

For updates and any last-minute changes in ‘Perspectives’ meeting times and places, please check the USAHEC homepage: www.USAHEC.org or call the Information Desk: (717) 245-3972.